PRECIOUS BLOOD FOUNDERS HYMN COLLECTION MANY THE VOICES

YET ONE NAME (Revised)

Cantor/Unison/Congregation and Keyboard with Optional SA and TB Decants and Instrumental Descant

Congregation Part

Composed for the Third Precious Blood Congress University of Dayton, Ohio August 1-4, 2005

> Text and Music by RALPH C. VERDI, C.PP.S.

PRECIOUS BLOOD FOUNDERS HYMN COLLECTION

MANY THE VOICES

On the occasion of the Third Precious Blood Congress held at the University of Dayton on August 1-4, 2005, a meeting of Roman Catholic religious communities founded upon devotion to Jesus Christ under the aspect of the shedding of his Most Precious Blood, I was asked by the liturgical planning committee of the sponsoring organization, the Precious Blood Leadership Conferenc (PBLC), to provide a unifying congress theme song.

It became apparent that while many knew and worked with various members among the distinct Precious Blood families of the PBLC, there was not any widespread or great depth of knowledge about the historical details of the founding of all of these families, nor was there any devotional tool or hymn which at that time attempted to encompasss the rich insights and spiritual heritage among the various founders.

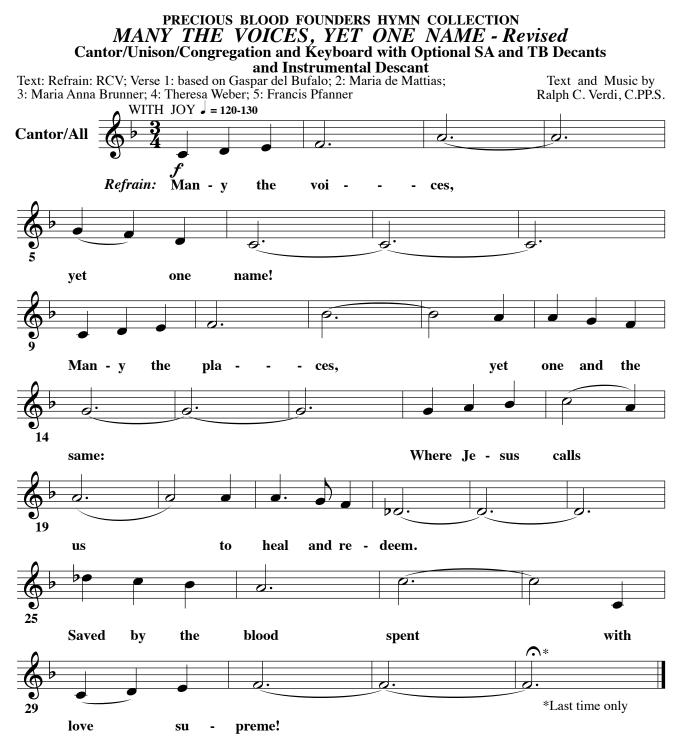
The task was to provide a corporate hymn expressing who the Precious Blood communities have become in Christ under the aspect of the shedding of his Most Precious Blood, while at the same time incorporating the many spiritual insights imparted to the various founders in their spiritual journies of establishing new religious communities for the spread of the Gospel. It became obvious that the only way to do this within the expanse of a single hymn was to take each of the founders at their own word and to use those words as the basis of revealing unity in their devotion to Christ in the shedding of his Most Precious Blood, and also at the same time as a way to highlight their rich diversity of unique spiritual insights within that same devotion.

In order to accomplish this, I needed to acquaint myself more thoroughly with the history and traditions of each founder and their respective communities. With the assistance of the various historians and librarians of these Precious Blood communities, I was privileged to come to know the spiritualities of the founders and some of the traditions that developed from the spiritual heritage they left behind. Choosing what seemed most characteristic of their personalities as revealed in their own words, or in the sayings and traditions they left behind when exact words were not available, I was able to craft a responsorial hymn with a unifying theme for the refrain expressing common identity as Precious Blood families, and a key but distinct spiritual insight of each founder in the verses. The result was *Many the Voices* which follows herein.

It is hoped that this hymn will help express who we are in Christ as we work together in the Precious Blood Leadership Conference for the spread of the Gopsel: "Saved by the Blood spent with love supreme!"

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Rev. Ralph C. Verdi, C.PP.S. February 13, 2006



VERSES (Cantor/Unison):

- **1.** O for a thousand tongues to praise the price poured out in Christ's blood! We cannot, we must not, we will not be silent about the great love of our God! (*Refrain*)
- 2. Praise the Providence of our God that filled our needs in the past! God still provides, and will provide for all that is yet to come! (*Refrain*)
- 3. Fill your hearts with the love of Christ! Shed blood's the sign of God's love! Now fill your hands with gifts for God's poor: of such is the Kingdom of God! (*Refrain*)
- 4. Precious as the blood of Christ, so is each soul to our God who fills our hearts with riches from Christ, and supplies for us all of our needs! (*Refrain*)
- 5. Flame of your zeal, let it soar for God who's honored by unbounded trust!
 To love, and serve the One who loved us so much that he died for us all! (*Refrain*)